

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. - 26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently amended) A method of treating an individual having an abnormal permanent enlargement of an airspace distal to a bronchial tube ~~terminal bronchiole~~ in a lung, said method comprising:

- providing a blocking element;
- inserting a delivery tube ~~the blocking element~~ through airways of the individual to the bronchial tube ~~terminal bronchiole~~ of the individual, wherein the delivery tube is loaded with the blocking element; and
- guiding the delivery tube to a suitable location within the bronchial tube; and
- releasing the blocking element in the bronchial tube ~~terminal bronchiole~~, wherein the blocking element prohibits air from flowing through the bronchial tube ~~terminal bronchiole~~ into the airspace as the patient inhales and isolates the airspace supplied by the terminal bronchiole so that the airspace deflates over time as the air in the airspace becomes absorbed.

28. (Currently amended) The method of claim 27, wherein the blocking element is inserted in the bronchial tube ~~terminal bronchiole~~ in a compressed state and expands into engagement with a wall of the bronchial tube ~~terminal bronchiole~~.

29. (Currently amended) The method of claim 28, wherein the blocking element expands into sealing engagement with the bronchial tube ~~terminal bronchiole~~ to form an air tight seal between the blocking element and a wall of the bronchial tube ~~terminal bronchiole~~.

30. (Currently amended) The method of claim 27, wherein the blocking element comprises a securing element that is expandable to a shape suitable for engaging a wall of the bronchial tube ~~terminal bronchiole~~.

31. (Currently amended) The method of claim 30, wherein the blocking element is inserted in the bronchial tube-terminal bronchiole in a compressed state and expands into engagement with the wall of the bronchial tube-terminal bronchiole.

32. (Original) The method of claim 27, wherein the blocking element comprises a substantially cylindrical plug of biocompatible material.

33. (Original) The method of claim 32, wherein the plug comprises resiliently deformable closed-cell foamed plastics material.

34. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein the securing element comprises a stent.

35. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the securing element comprises a memory metal which is released to an expanded shape by a change in a physical parameter after it has been inserted in the terminal bronchiole.

36. (Original) The method of claim 27, wherein the blocking element comprises a balloon or a diaphragm.

37. (Canceled)

38. (Currently amended) The method of claim 27 ~~[[37]]~~, wherein the blocking element is released by pushing the blocking element out of the delivery tube.

39. (Currently amended) The method of claim 27, further comprising:
providing a second blocking element;
inserting the second blocking element in a second bronchial tube-terminal
~~bronchiole~~ of the individual; and
releasing the second blocking element in the second bronchial tube-terminal
~~bronchiole~~ so that the second blocking element prohibits air from flowing through the second
bronchial tube-terminal bronchiole into a second airspace as the patient inhales and isolates the

second airspace so that the second airspace deflates over time as the air in the second airspace becomes absorbed.

40. (Canceled)

41. (Previously presented) The method of claim 27, wherein the lung disease is emphysema.

42.-48. (Canceled)

49. (Currently amended) A method of treating an individual having an abnormal permanent enlargement of an airspace distal to a bronchial tube ~~terminal bronchiole~~ in a lung, said method comprising:

guiding a delivery tube to a suitable location within the bronchial tube of the individual;

inserting a material in the terminal bronchiole of the individual from the delivery tube to the location in the bronchial tube so that the material prohibits air from flowing through the bronchial tube ~~terminal bronchiole~~ in both an inhalation direction and an exhalation direction; and

releasing the material in the from the delivery tube in the bronchial tube ~~terminal bronchiole~~ so that air is trapped in the airspace distal to the terminal bronchiole and is absorbed over time.

50. (Previously presented) A method as in claim 34, wherein the stent is a self-expanding stent.

51. (Previously presented) A method as in claim 49, wherein the abnormal permanently enlarged airspace is caused by emphysema.